

participating university staff, students, and NWS operational staff to share observations, interpretations, and theory of the complex atmospheric circulations, which are now observable with new information obtained through the modernization of the NWS. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) exists between UCAR and NOAA although no financial assistance is provided through the MOA. The research is currently funded by a cooperative agreement. The period of the cooperative agreement starting with the fiscal year 1999 funding cycle will be for 3 years.

Subject to the availability of funds, NOAA intends to continue support to the COMET program during the fiscal year 1999 funding cycle. The COMET program is a cooperative agreement between the NWS and the UCAR, which represents all universities with meteorology and oceanographic graduate and undergraduate programs. We believe UCAR is the only entity which can draw on all of the talent of the participating universities to provide the programs needed by the Federal and university meteorological community.

NOAA does not intend to establish or fund new cooperative agreements at this time. This notice is not a solicitation for proposals.

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance: The NWS COMET program is listed in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.467, Meteorologic and Hydrologic Modernization Development.

Classification: This action has been determined not to be significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

John J. Kelly, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
[FR Doc. 98-32450 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KE-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120198A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Request to transfer a non-releasable rehabilitated marine mammal.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort

MacArthur, 3601 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, has requested authorization to transfer a non-releasable rehabilitated California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) to Gabriel J. Kerschner, Wild Things, Inc., 1211 Ponderosa Way, Weimar, CA 95736, for purposes of public display.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The authorization request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289).

Written comments on this request should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Hochman, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Marine Mammal Care Center is requesting authorization to transfer one female California sea lion from unreleasable beached and stranded stock for the purpose of public display, as authorized by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permanent retention for public display purposes of a beached or stranded marine mammal taken for the purpose of rehabilitation under section 109(h) of the MMPA must be authorized by NMFS before such animals may be retained by the rehabilitating facility, transported domestically to a public display facility, or exported to another facility for public display purposes, in accordance with applicable MMPA requirements.

In order to obtain any marine mammal for public display purposes, the recipient must meet the following three public display criteria: (1) Offer a program for education or conservation purposes that is based on professionally recognized standards of the public display community; (2) be registered or hold a license issued under 7 U.S.C.

2131 *et seq.*, i.e., from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture; and (3) maintain facilities for the public display of marine mammals that are open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis and to which access is not limited or restricted other than by charging of an admission fee.

Wild Things, Inc., has an exhibitor's license, No. 93-C-0382, issued by APHIS under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). However, Wild Things, Inc., does not currently maintain marine mammals. The care and maintenance of captive marine mammals must adhere to the requirements of the AWA. Consequently, a copy of the request is also being sent to APHIS.

Wild Things, Inc., is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee, and will offer an educational program based upon the standards of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Wild Things, Inc., plans to add this marine mammal to its outreach program to local school assembly programs. Transportation associated with these assembly programs will be conducted according to APHIS standards under the AWA. Also, Wild Things, Inc., will be required to submit to NMFS a transport notification 15 days in advance of any proposed transport, as required under section 104(c) of the MMPA.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

Art Jeffers,

Acting Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Applications of the New York Mercantile Exchange for Designation as a Contract Market in PJM Electricity Futures and Options, Submitted Under 45-Day Fast Track Procedures

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed terms and conditions for applications for contract market designation.

SUMMARY: The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in PJM (Pennsylvania-Maryland-New Jersey) electricity futures and